

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-15, 19 and 20 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-11, 16 and 18 are rejected as anticipated by SUZUKI et al. 6,706,029. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 provides in part that each liquid barrier is, at least in the crotch portion of the product, in a region between an attachment to the absorbent product and each free edge, fixed to the adjacent side flap outside the edges of the absorbent body. Accordingly, the liquid barrier is fixed to the adjacent side flap in a region between the attachment to the absorbent product and the free edge. Thus the barrier is connected to the absorbent product at a first location and fixed to the side flap at a second, different location that is between the first location and the free end. The result of the above structure as further recited is double raised leakage barriers.

In contrast, Figure 2 of SUZUKI et al., for example, shows the barrier 7 connected at a single location, base 13, to both the flap 5 and the absorbent product. Accordingly, the arrangement of SUZUKI et al. will result in only a single raised barrier.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, and 8 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over SUZUKI et al.

Claim 9 is amended and provides that the liquid barrier layer is fixed to an adjacent one of the side flaps, in a region between the free edge and where the liquid barrier extends from the absorbent product. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 9.

Claims 10, 11, 16 and 18 depend from claim 9 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

Application No. 09/981,894
Amdt. dated August 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2004
Docket No. 1511-1022-1

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

LM/mjr
August 24, 2004